

2013 Letters About Literature Level 1 Honorable Mention

Charlie De Poortere's letter to Suzanne Collins, author of *The Hunger Games*

January 8, 2013

Dear Suzanne Collins,

I enjoyed reading your book The Hunger Games. The story was exciting and I really loved the action. The most unique thing about this book is that it is incredibly truth telling. In fact it opened my eyes to the true world. Before I read The Hunter Games I thought that there wasn't much oppression that really existed. Lately, I am paying much more attention to the news from around the world.

From the very beginning of the book you showed the readers what it must feel like to be oppressed. The reaping is a perfect example of people being controlled by a powerful government. Katniss was scared to death that her little sister might be picked to play in the games. I felt it was unfair that people had to play in the Hunger Games if they didn't want to.

I saw an important message in your book when I read about the problems for the people of District 11. Obviously, they felt like they wanted to revolt because they were sick and tired of working for the people at the capitol. It is very unfair that they had to make food, but rarely had any food to eat. Reading about District 11 helped me understand what it must be like for a country to live under the rule of government like that.

I know a little bit about how it feels to be oppressed. When my family visited Tunisia, my sister and my mom had to wear clothing that covered every part of them. This was a rule. The government controlled the people and I was worried that my mom would be arrested if she did something wrong. In Tunisia there were even soldiers on the streets with machine guns to control the people! I felt unsafe, scare, and powerless. It must feel dreadful to be controlled like that every day.

In the Hunger Games the capitol kept the citizens doing what they wanted by ruling them with violence and even starvation. For example, the capitol ordered that anyone who refuses to participate in the Hunger Games would be killed. This is similar to what is happening

in Syria right now! In fact, things are so bad in Syria that the rebels are now fighting back. Of course, just like the capitol, the government punishes people if they revolt. I understand that now. Thanks to your book I can see clearly that oppression is real. It exists in many places and it can be terrible.

Thank you for writing The Hunger Games. Luckily, in America, we are free to choose what job we want, what we eat, what we wear and even if we want to play a game or not. Thank you for all the excitement, emotion, thrills and action. Most importantly thank you for reminding me how amazing it feels to live in the land of the free.

Sincerely,

Charlie De Poortere